

EDITORIAL

The 2005 Database Issue of *Nucleic Acids Research* is the twelfth in a series dedicated to factual databases in the field of molecular biology. Such databases are an essential resource for working biologists and this compilation provides descriptions and updates of the most important of these databases and serves to introduce newly compiled databases that provide specialist information in the biological area.

Michael Galperin has produced the Molecular Biology Database Collection, a compendium of databases that includes all those databases described in *Nucleic Acids Research*, as well as selected other databases relevant to biologists. NAR Online contains hotlinks to all of the databases in the compilation as well as brief summaries of their content. Hotlinks are provided from that website directly to the homepage of each of the databases featured. Individuals who wish to have their database listed in the Molecular Biology Database Collection or update a previous submission to the collection should contact Dr Michael Galperin directly (galperin@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov).

The database issue marks a new open access era for *Nucleic Acids Research*. From this issue onwards the entire content of the journal will be freely available to all. More information about *Nucleic Acids Research's* open access policy can be found at the following URL: <http://www3.oup.co.uk/nar/openaccess>.

For the first time I have included a paper describing one of the popular Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS). The majority of databases in this issue now utilise RDBMS of one kind or another and so it seems timely to describe some of the advances being made. An invited manuscript describes how the Oracle RDBMS is tailoring its software for the life sciences.

Authors wishing to submit articles for the 2006 Database Issue must contact Dr A. Bateman (nardatabase@mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk) during the year, and no later than July 1, 2005 to check whether a submission will be suitable for the issue. All new articles will need to be received by August 15, 2005 at the latest, and should be prepared according to the instructions on the *Nucleic Acids Research* website (<http://nar.oupjournals.org/>). Authors who are invited to submit articles providing update information on databases that have previously been featured in *Nucleic Acids Research* should note that the deadline for submission of those articles is September 15, 2005.

The database issue would not be possible without timely reports from hundreds of reviewers. I would also like to thank Alice Ellingham and Gill Smith for fantastic editorial assistance. Finally I would like to thank Claire Saxby, and the rest of the team at Oxford University Press for producing this important issue.

Alex Bateman
Database Issue Editor

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